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USSR PLANTS INCREASE PRODUCTION OF CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS

MOSCOW

According to a decree of the Council of Ministers USSR, the 1950 output by Moscow City and Moscow Oblast enterprises of the construction materials industry is to reach 952 million bricks, 217,000 tons of lime, and 109,000 tons of gypsum.

During a 10-month period of 1949, enterprises of the Moscow City Administration of Construction Materials Industry showed the following increase in production, as compared with the same period of 1948: bricks - 31.5 percent, construction parts - 67.2 percent, lime - 44 percent, gypsum - 44.5 percent, and ceramic tiles - 69.5 percent. Labor productivity in Moscow enterprises of the construction materials industry increased 24 percent over 1948 and exceeded the 1940 level. (1) Enterprises of the Moscow City Administration of Construction Materials Industry are producing over 40 different types of building materials. (2)

Construction materials plants are using an increasing amount of machinery to replace manual labor and new production speeds are being attained. The "Mosgorkirpich" (Moscow City Brick) Trust of the Moscow City Soviet increased its 1949 output by 43 million bricks, without additional expenses. (3)

As a result of a number of technical improvements, the monthly output of bricks per one cubic meter of kiln has exceeded 1,300 bricks in several plants, which is considerably above the 1940 level. Outdated methods of seasonal brick production are being replaced by up-to-date, mechanized, year-round production. The volume of seasonal brick production, which constituted 52 percent in 1940, was lowered to 22 percent in 1949, and is expected to drop to 18 percent by the end of the year.

Brick presses have been completely modernized. New powerful vacuum presses are being installed in place of the old presses. The new presses are designed to mold bricks from clay with a low degree of moisture (14 to 16 percent), making them so solid that the newly molded unfired bricks retain their shape even if they are hit with a hammer. This process reduces the drying period and increases productivity of the plant. The use of vacuum presses also improves the quality of bricks.

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New types of materials are being used in brick plants. The production of hollow, dry-pressed bricks has been organized. (1) The Cheremushki, Beskudnikovo, Vorontsovskiy and Kudinovskiy plants are producing porous bricks, which are lightweight and have low heat-conductivity. Techniques are improving. By adding ground coal to the loam, the periods of brick drying and firing can be shortened and the output of drying chambers and firing kilns will be increased. (3) The Beskudnikovo Brick Plant is building a new shop for the production of hollow ceramic blocks to be used in the construction of tall buildings in Moscow. (1)

A new shop was opened in August 1949 at the Leninogorskiy Brick Plant. It was to produce large quantities of essential building materials, especially porous bricks. The shop is equipped with a tunnel drier and new machines. However, from the very first days the machines showed defects. According to plan, the shop was to produce one million bricks per month, but in spite of the workers' efforts it was possible to produce only 20,000. The new equipment, built by plants of the Ministry of Construction and Road-Machine Building, is extremely unsatisfactory. There have been frequent breakdowns in operation, particularly in the case of the vacuum press built by the "Krasnyy Oktiabr'" Plant in Kharkov. I. Ioffe, director of the Leninogorskiy Brick Plant, stated that the plant did not want this type of machinery. (4)

All plants of the construction materials industry are striving to reach the 1950 production volume during 1949. The output of the Nizhnekotel'skiy Brick Plant exceeds 40,000 bricks per press shift. (1) The Verkhnekotel'skiy and Golitsinskiy brick plants fulfilled the 1949 plan for brick molding in August. The dry-plaster plant and Construction Parts Plant No 2 have fulfilled the Five-Year Plan. (2)

The Beskudnikovo Brick Plant is the second largest enterprise of the Moscow City Administration of Construction Materials Industry. Moscow construction projects receive many millions of bricks per year from this plant. The plant's output in 1949 exceeded that of 1948 (5), and the 1949 plan was fulfilled by 7 November. During a 10-month period of 1949, the output was 8 million bricks over the same period of 1948. By the end of the year, the plant intends to produce 8 million more bricks. (6)

Enterprises of the Moscow City Administration completed the 9-month plan ahead of schedule. They have produced above plan 17 million bricks, 5,000 tons of lime, 1,500 tons of gypsum, 3,000 cubic meters of reinforced-concrete parts, and many other products. (2)

During 1949, construction parts plants in Moscow built two new shops for the production of large reinforced-concrete parts.

Mass production of reinforced-concrete girders is being organized. Reinforced-concrete panels are produced for use in the assembly of prefabricated houses. The use of wall panels eliminates the time- and labor-consuming process of bricklaying. Interstory floors are assembled from large reinforced-concrete blocks. (1)

Construction Parts Plant No 3 has introduced a new technique of steaming reinforced-concrete parts, as suggested by engineer Trofimov. Reconstruction of the steaming chambers will increase the output by 25 percent. (3)

In addition to the increased production of hollow gypsum tiles for partition walls, the production of gypsum-sawdust tiles has been organized. These tiles can be easily nailed and they are soundproof and heat-insulating.

The Danilovo Alabaster Plant is in the process of reconstruction and a new shop has been opened at the plant for modernized gypsum production. Upon complete reconstruction of the plant in 1949, its capacity will be 2.5 times greater. The plant has accumulated a supply of gypsum stone sufficient to last through the interwar period of 1949 - 1950. (1)

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The Izoplit" (Insulation Plate) Plant in Moscow fulfilled the 1949 plan on 31 October, and the Five-Year Plan on 30 October. The plant produces mineral wool used for insulating pipes in heat and power plants, steam pipes, and in tall buildings.(7)

A group of engineers of the "Stroymekhmontazh" (Construction Mechanics and Assembly) Trust, Ministry of Construction- and Road-Machine Building, under the supervision of Engineer N. Sobolev, worked out an interesting method for the production of mineral wool felt and matting. Different types of rocks and clay can be used as raw material for the production of mineral wool. This material is melted in special cupolas at a temperature up to 1,500 degrees. The melted mass is split up by a jet of steam and transformed into fine glassy fibers. This is the semifinished product, raw mineral wool, which is then placed on a conveyor and undergoes a number of processes, being subjected to temperature, chemical and mechanical treatments.

In summer 1949, the "Izoplit" Plant installed two lines of new equipment with 12 original machines designed by Soviet engineers. Moscow plants of the Ministry of Construction- and Road-Machine Building have mastered the production of these machines. The new machines were recently shipped to the Urals and Arkhangel'sk Oblast for two new mineral wool plants.

The new mineral wool insulators have excellent qualities. The annual output of one conveyor line replaces about 50,000 cubic meters of timber or 80 million bricks in the construction of buildings.(8)

Leningrad and Other Parts of RSFSR

The "Barrikada" Plant in Leningrad has mastered the production of terrazit, a dry colored mixture for plastering the outside walls of buildings. The new material is very durable and eliminates the necessity of painting.(8)

Enterprises of the Ministry of Construction Materials Industry USSR are considerably increasing the output of wood-fiber sheets, a good heat-insulating material. Until now, such sheets were used in construction work only for insulation purposes. The Lyamine House-Building Combine, Molotov Oblast, has organized mass production of hard wood-fiber sheets for facing interior walls of buildings. This eliminates wet plastering and makes it possible to finish the walls at any time of the year.(9)

The "Bol'shevik" Cement Plant, Ministry of Construction Materials Industry USSR, at Vol'sk, Saratov Oblast, has been awarded the Order of Red Labor Banner for its successful operation and on the occasion of its 50th anniversary.(10)

Latvian SSR

Enterprises of the Ministry of Construction Materials Industry Latvian SSR have reached the 1950 production level. The following enterprises have fulfilled the Five-Year Plan: the Riga Cement Plant, the "Sarkandaugava" Glass Plant in Riga, the "Segums" Roofing Paper Plant in Riga, the "Rigips" Plant, the Riga Tile Plant, the Bolderaya Construction Ceramics Plant (11), the "Tuya" Brick Plant, the Riga Slate Plant, the "Plyavinyas" Quarry (12), and the Yekabpils Stone Quarry. The Krustpils Brick Plant has fulfilled the 1949 gross-production plan.(13)

The Tsis Construction Materials Plant has exceeded the Five-Year Plan and the 1949 gross-production plan.(14) The Katlakalna Lime Plant completed the 1949 production plan on 12 October.(15) The Ceramics Industry Trust fulfilled the 1949 year plan. The plan for production of bricks, sewage pipes, fire-clay products, tiles, and lime, has been exceeded.(16)

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The "Segums" Plant in Riga fulfilled the Five-Year Plan 119 percent and the 1949 plan 126 percent. By conserving raw material and fuel and by lowering production costs, the plant has accumulated savings of 600,000 rubles.(13)

Lithuanian SSR

Enterprises of the Ministry of Construction Materials Industry Lithuanian SSR considerably increased their production during 1949. The 8-month plan was exceeded, the output for 8 months of 1949 being 59 percent above that of the same period in 1948. Production of unfired bricks was 61.6 percent over 1948; production of tiles, 63.7 percent more; and glass production was almost five times greater.

During a 4-month period, the Shvauliyay Plaster Gypsum Plant produced 90 percent of first-grade gypsum, as against 82 percent provided by plan, and waste in production has been eliminated.

The "Sargenay" Brick and Tile Plant is a leading enterprise of the construction materials industry in Lithuania. Later productivity in this plant is high, and the quality of products is good.(17) The plant fulfilled the 1949 plan ahead of schedule, lowered production costs by 20 percent and accumulated savings of about 300,000 rubles.(18)

Many construction materials plants have improved the quality of their products, including the "Gariyava," "Duseikyav," "Krashtay," "Gelgaudishkis," "Aleksandriya," "Panevezhukas," and other brick and tile plants. The quality of roofing paper has improved considerably in 1949. However, in spite of general progress made during 1949, a number of enterprises are still not operating satisfactorily and are producing low-quality materials, including the "Kurshenay," "Ionishkelis," "Rokay," "Bitukas," "Pabagay," "Klaipeda," and several other brick plants.

Lithuanian plants are to begin production of new materials in 1950, including "terrazit" plaster mixtures, facing materials, drain pipes, armor-plated rubberoid (roof sheeting material), insulation tiles, and other materials and construction parts to speed up construction work.

Builders have been severely criticized for their negligence in transporting and unloading bricks and tiles, which has caused breakage and waste of a large portion of the materials. For instance, at the Klaipeda port a large amount of bricks was unloaded in a pile together with iron, stone and other materials. As a result, almost one fourth of the bricks were damaged and wasted.(19)

The Shvauliyay Alabaster Plant, which produces high-quality alabaster, has fulfilled the 1949 plan and gained above-plan profits of 70,000 rubles.(19)

The "Akmyane" Plant, an important enterprise of the Ministry of Construction Materials Industry Lithuanian SSR, exceeded the 1949 plan for production of first-grade products by 24 percent. Production costs were lowered 16.7 percent, as against the plan. Labor productivity increased considerably. The output of lime per cubic meter of kiln is almost 100 percent above norm. During a 10-month period, the plant conserved 150 tons of equivalent fuel and saved 687,000 rubles above plan.(20)

The "Palemonas" Brick and Tile Plant, one of the largest in Lithuania, fulfilled the 1949 plan for all types of products ahead of schedule, and produced 170,000 bricks and 115,000 roofing tiles above plan.

Nine other large enterprises of the Lithuanian construction materials industry completed their year plans.(21)

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Belorussian SSR

The Scientific Research Institute of Construction Materials Belorussian SSR has developed new methods in 1949 for improving the quality of bricks, lowering fuel consumption, and raising the productivity of firing and drying installations. Noteworthy suggestions have been made for the production of bricks, with normal mechanical resistance, out of Minsk clay which has a low alumina content.

Scientific workers of the Belorussian construction materials industry visited the Nizhnekotel'skiy Plant in Moscow, which is considered the most efficient brick plant in the Soviet Union. It was found that the technical equipment of Minsk brick plants was in no way inferior to the equipment at the Nizhnekotel'skiy Brick Plant. The high productivity of the Moscow plant and the high quality of its bricks is explained by a strict observance of production discipline and by more efficient handling of machinery. A few interesting points may be noted with regard to the temperature of brick firing at the Nizhnekotel'skiy plant. The raw material at this plant is of relatively low quality. However, the fired bricks are of excellent quality, type 150. The temperature in the firing zone is 1,100 degrees. This temperature causes a fusion in the fired brick, giving it higher mechanical resistance. The method of brick firing at a temperature of 1,100 degrees makes it possible to produce high-quality bricks out of relatively low-quality clay. The application of a steam batch has shortened the drying period by 24 hours and has reduced the fracturing of bricks.(22)

Two new brick plants have been built in Ul'skiy and Lioznenskiy rayons, Vitebsk Oblast.(23)

Until now, ceramic pipes used in sewer systems have been shipped to Belorussia from other republics. These pipes are very practical and present a good substitute for expensive cast-iron pipes. The Construction Materials Institute of the Ministry of Construction Materials Industry, Belorussian SSR, recently worked out a method and a consistency formula for the production of ceramic pipes, utilizing the Loyevo clay deposits. This type of clay is highly refractory and clinkers readily. Tests of the finished product have shown that pipes made of Loyevo clay are of high quality. Production of pipes is to be organized at the Gomel' Clinker Plant.(24)

The Polotsk Construction Parts Plant, Ministry of Civilian and Housing Construction Belorussian SSR, fulfilled the 1949 plan 102.4 percent on 31 October. The plant completed the plan for labor productivity 123.3 percent, lowered production costs by 16 percent, and accumulated 42,000 rubles' worth of savings above plan by 1 September.

The Baranovichi Construction Parts Plant fulfilled the 1949 plan 101 percent on 29 October. The Gomel' Construction Parts Plant fulfilled the 1949 plan 100.8 percent on 31 October. The Bobruysk Construction Parts Plant fulfilled the 1949 plan 100 percent on 25 October.(25)

Ukrainian SSR

The Kiev Mechanized Plant has mastered series production of brick-producing machines. Each set of machines represents a movable brick plant, consisting of a presse, a conveyor, a clay mill, and a cutting machine. A small plant of this type produces 8,000 bricks per shift. The Kiev plant has produced 250 of these movable machine units for brick production. They are used in many kolkhozes, and on large construction projects of the Ukraine and of other USSR republics.(26)

A new construction parts plant has been built in Korostan', Zhitomir Oblast. The Korostan' plant is to have a yearly production of 150,000 square meters of window sashes, 60,000 square meters of door panels, a large quantity of floor boards, and other parts. The first products of the plant have been sent to new construction projects.(27)

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Construction of a new woodworking plant in Kiev has been completed. The plant is equipped with the latest types of machinery, and is producing construction parts, including window casings, doors, plinths, etc.(28)

Dneprodzerzhinsk cement workers fulfilled the 11-month plan ahead of schedule. The output was 15.6 percent above that for the same period of 1948. The plant has gained several million rubles' profit.(29)

Azerbaijani SSR

The Ministry of Construction Materials Industry, Ministry of Local Industry, and the Administration of Industrial Cooperatives in the Azerbaijan SSR have been blamed for the shortage of bricks, lime, stone, and other building materials in that republic. Out of 28 enterprises of the Administration of Local Industry and rayon industrial combines, producing bricks and tiles, only six enterprises are fulfilling their plans. The quality of construction materials is very low.

In 1950, considerable capital investments are planned for kolkhoz housing construction, as well as for construction of various cultural establishments in Lenkoran', Kirovabad, Kuba, Shusha, Nukha, Nakhichevan', and Zakataly. The successful completion of these plans depends largely on the availability of essential building materials.

The development of the construction materials industry in Azerbaijan is hampered by inefficient and outmoded production methods. No steps have been taken by the responsible ministries and organizations to mechanize the production of bricks, stone, lime, and alabaster, and to improve the quality of these materials.(30)

Armenian SSR

The Yerevan Asphalt and Concrete Plant No 2 fulfilled the 1949 gross-production and quantity-of-production plan on 1 October.

The Kolageran Quarry Administration, Ministry of Construction Materials Industry Armenian SSR, fulfilled the 1949 plan for gross production and stone quarrying on 1 November.(26)

The Yerevan Marble Plant fulfilled the 1949 gross-production plan, as well as the plan for main types of products, 3 months ahead of schedule. Plant workers have been meeting their quotas 150-160 percent. A 140-square meter area has been released at the plant and a new sawing machine has been installed in this space. Three more powerful machines will be installed by the end of December.(31)

The Leninakan Refractories Plant fulfilled the 1949 gross-production plan on 3 November. The plan for refractory brick molding was exceeded by 16 percent and the plan for brick firing was completed 100.1 percent. The roofing tile shop increased the output of first-grade tiles, exceeding the plan by 15 percent.

During 1949, the average productivity of one worker increased to 110.2 percent of the norm. The plant saved 52,000 kilowatt-hours of electric power and 5.7 percent of auxiliary materials and lubricants.(32)

Georgian SSR

The Stalinir Brick Plant supplies all of South Osetia and several adjoining rayons, including Goriyskiy Rayon, with bricks. The plant operation has been lagging during the past years, but the planned quotas have been met successfully in 1949. Brick output has increased and the quality has improved.(33)

The Tbilisi Glass Plant of the Transcaucasus Railroad produced 30,000 square meters of window glass during November. A portion of the glass will be for sale to the public.(34)

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Uzbek SSR

A great deal of individual construction is going on in Tashkent. However, many builders who have received lots and long-term loans are unable to obtain some of the required building materials. The only organization supplying home builders with materials is Glavlesosbyt (Main Administration of Timber Sales). However, it does not have the required materials. Instead of boards and laths, Glavlesosbyt offers round timber, and the individual builders have no facilities for sawing it. Window frames and doors are built according to one standard only and do not fit every type of house. It is also very difficult to obtain roofing materials. Over 200 individual houses are without roofs. Tashpromtorg receives a large quantity of roofing iron, slate, and roofing paper, which is intended for sale to the public. However, it is almost impossible to buy these materials in stores. The Ministry of Communal Economy Uzbek SSR and the industrial cooperatives have done nothing to improve this situation by producing the necessary materials in local plants.(35)

During the past few years, production of local construction materials in the Uzbek SSR has been very unsatisfactory. In the first 9 months of 1949, the republic completed only 60.1 percent of the year plan for brick firing, 60.9 percent of the year plan for lime production, 52.6 percent of the year plan for gypsum and alabaster, and 14.5 percent of the year plan for clay tiles.

The main reason for the production lag is poor organization. Machinery is not fully utilized. Instead of operating the year round, many plants operate only during certain seasons.

A serious shortcoming is the irregular distribution of plants producing local building materials. Brick production is centralized in Tashkent and its suburbs. In many rayons of Uzbekistan, brick firing is not performed at all or to such a small extent that it does not even meet local demands. The same situation exists with regard to other building materials. Clay tile production has been reduced to practically nothing. Lime production is below the prewar level. Industrial cooperatives, which produced almost 20,000 tons of gypsum and alabaster per year before the war, are now producing scarcely any of these essential building materials.(36)

Enterprises of the Ministry of Construction Materials Industry Uzbek SSR operated very unsatisfactorily during the first 10 months of 1949. The Khilkovskiy Cement Plant and the Kuvasay Slate Plant failed to meet their plans.(37)

Tadzhik SSR

Plants of the Administration of Construction Materials Industry, Council of Ministers Tadzhik SSR, fulfilled the Five-Year Plan for production of bricks, lime, gypsum and gypsum blocks, ahead of schedule. Compared with prewar years, the output of bricks has increased 37 percent, production of lime and gypsum has grown more than 50 percent, and tile production has increased 2½ times.

The Stalinabad Brick Plant recently shipped one million bricks from its surplus production to construction projects of Ashkhabad.(38)

The Stalinabad Construction Materials Plant (director Kh. Salikhov) fulfilled the 1949 plan on 1 November. During 1949, labor productivity increased 7.6 percent and production costs were lowered by 3.7 percent.(39)

Kazakh SSR

A new brick plant has been opened in Akmolinsk, Kazakh SSR. The plant is equipped with modern machinery and most of the labor processes are mechanized. The enterprise is to produce several million bricks per year.(40)

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Kirgiz SSR

The Osh Brick Plant fulfilled the 1949 gross-production plan ahead of schedule, exceeding the plan by 1,200,000 bricks. The quality of bricks and lime has improved considerably over 1948. By the end of 1949, the plant intends to produce an additional 120 tons of lime and 1 million fired bricks.(41)

The Novopavlovskiy Brick Plant fulfilled the 1949 gross-production plan ahead of schedule. The plant's output included 83 percent more first-grade bricks than specified in the plan. Production costs were 8.4 percent below the plan, and above-plan accumulations amounted to 792,000 rubles.(42)

Primorskiy Kray

The Ugol'ninskiy Brick Plant, Primorskiy Kray, fulfilled the 1949 plan ahead of schedule. By the end of 1949, the plant intends to produce 2 million bricks above plan.(43)

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